

-2-

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for charging for network analysis, and executing on a computer including a computer readable medium, comprising:
 - (a) collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of agents;
 - (b) consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of host controllers coupled to the agents;
 - (c) reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing a plurality of zone controllers coupled to the host controllers; and
 - (d) determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on a number of at least one of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone controllers.
2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the agents.
3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the host controllers.
4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the zone controllers.
5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising adding additional agents coupled to the host controllers.

-3-

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, and further comprising adjusting the reoccurring fee based on the number of additional agents.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising charging the user the recurring fee.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising charging the user the recurring fee utilizing a network.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for charging for network analysis, and executing on a computer including a computer readable medium, comprising:

- (a) computer code for collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of agents;
- (b) computer code for consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of host controllers coupled to the agents;
- (c) computer code for reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing a plurality of zone controllers coupled to the host controllers; and
- (d) computer code for determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on a number of at least one of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone controllers.

10. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising computer code for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the agents.

11. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising computer code for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the host controllers.

-4-

12. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising computer code for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the zone controllers.
13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising computer code for adding additional agents coupled to the host controllers.
14. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further comprising computer code for adjusting the reoccurring fee based on the number of additional agents.
15. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising computer code for charging the user the recurring fee.
16. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising computer code for charging the user the recurring fee utilizing a network.
17. (Currently Amended) A system for charging for network analysis updates, and executing on a computer including computer readable medium, comprising:
- (a) logic for collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of agents;
 - (b) logic for consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of host controllers coupled to the agents;
 - (c) logic for reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing a plurality of zone controllers coupled to the host controllers; and
 - (d) logic for determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on a number of at least one of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone controllers.

-5-

18. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the agents.
19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the host controllers.
20. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the zone controllers.
21. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for adding additional agents coupled to the host controllers.
22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, and further comprising logic for adjusting the reoccurring fee based on the number of additional agents.
23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for charging the user the recurring fee.
24. (Original) The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for charging the user the recurring fee utilizing a network.
25. (Currently Amended) A method for charging for network analysis, and executing on a computer including a computer readable medium, comprising:
- (a) collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of agents;
 - (b) consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of host controllers coupled to the agents;

-6-

- (c) reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing a plurality of zone controllers coupled to the host controllers;
- (d) determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on a number of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone controllers; and
- (e) charging the user the recurring fee.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for charging for distributed network analysis, and executing on a computer including a computer readable medium, comprising:

collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of information collectors;

consolidating the network traffic information utilizing at least one information collector manager coupled to the information collectors;

reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing at least one interface; and

determining a fee associated with the distributed network analysis based on a number of the information collectors.

27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the fee is reoccurring.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for charging for distributed network analysis, and executing on a computer including a computer readable medium, comprising:

computer code for collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of information collectors;

computer code for consolidating the network traffic information utilizing at least one information collector manager coupled to the information collectors;

computer code for reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing at least one interface; and

-7-

computer code for determining a fee associated with the distributed network analysis based on a number of the information collectors.

29. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the fee is reoccurring.
30. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the reoccurring fee is based on a tiered system.
31. (New) The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the number of the at least one of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone controllers are set for each tier.
32. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the reoccurring fee is based on a non-linear function.
33. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the reoccurring fee is a monthly fee.
34. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each agent incurs a first reoccurring fee, each host controller incurs a second reoccurring fee greater than the first reoccurring fee, and each zone controller incurs a third reoccurring fee greater than the second reoccurring fee.